

Appleby Archaeology

Notes of the Committee Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group held on Friday November 16th 2018 at the Crown and Cushion, Appleby.

Present

Martin Joyce	Chairman
Chris Wilson	Treasurer/Membership Secretary
Martin Railton	Research
Barbara Blenkinson	
Catherine Hooper	Guest
Phyl Rouston	
Trish Shaw	
Adrian Waite	
Mick Yates	
Richard Stevens	Secretary

Apologies

None. New member Catherine Hooper was welcomed to the meeting as a guest.

Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were discussed and agreed with the addition of Marjorie Campion's surname. Richard said that he could also add minute numbers and reissue.

1/11/18 Matters arising.

- 1/09/18 AGM presentations. Martin J said that he had spoken to James Hodgson of the Red Wyverns after Adrian W had been in touch. James had agreed that they would make a presentation of Medieval Christmas in Appleby. Phyl suggested that Martin R could update the membership on research developments as an agenda item at the AGM i.e. Field Work Officers Report
- 3/09/18 Secretary's £10 honorarium has been paid.
- 3/09/18 Transfer of the Group bank account. Following the closure of Barclays in Appleby, an EGM had been held on 22nd October and the minutes had been circulated. Chris said that since then, accounts had been opened at Barclays and the Cumberland Building Society in Penrith. Signatories had been formalised at the Cumberland Building Society and paying in books from both organisations had been received. The new cheque book from the Cumberland was still awaited.
- 6/09/18 Audio-visual arrangements. Martin J explained that the fixed system in the Supper room had now been used very successfully. Access to the new equipment requires knowledge of a security code, and advice on how we will be informed of any changes to this is awaited, as are details of any increase to the room hire charge.
- Richard said that he would shortly have to send a final report to CCC for the projector grant.
- 7/09/18 Phyl reminded the committee that since Marjorie Campion was no longer a member, mince pies for the December talk would have to be purloined from an alternative source, with both the Hub and the baking stall in the market suggested. Trish said that she could source from one or the other and Phyl said that she could

collect from the stallholder in Long Marton on the day if required. She also said that the quantity should be no more than 30 since many usually remained uneaten.

7/09/18 Heart of Eden. The non-appearance of Appleby Archaeology events in Heart of Eden was now resolved.

2/011/18 Membership

Chris said that the Group had recently added 4 new members. Encouragingly, the last talk had attracted 13 visitors.

3/11/18 Treasurer's Report

Chris presented his estimate of the accounts to date, showing a bank balance of £906.65. There had been no recent statement from Barclays so he had consolidated using the previous statement. Martin R said that he would expect that the initial tranche from HLF, being £24,700, should have been paid in. Chris said that he was disappointed in the service from Barclays in Penrith and would be visiting them as soon as possible. Fortunately, the Cumberland had been very helpful with setting up the new Group account.

Chris handed over forms for Barclays signature change to Martin R, who would use the account solely for the Dig Appleby Project.

4/11/18 Research

Brackenber Moor.

Martin R said that the Brackenber final report had finally been published in the CWAAS Transactions, closing the Project after 10 years! The report had been circulated to the committee.

Dig Appleby Phase 2. (Digging Deeper)

Martin R explained that the HLF had approved the grant for the second phase of the project in early October. The grant was for £49,400 and was to cover a three year Project. Permission to start had been authorized and the initial 50% payment should be received immediately. A second payment of 40% would be made later in the Project, 10% being retained to allow for production of final reports etc. Martin R then said that he had made a Project Plan which would be circulated to committee members. In addition, he had made a full budget for the Project. This would be kept up to date throughout and circulated to the full committee at each meeting.

A widely publicized drop-in launch event would be held in February, either in the public hall, the event room in the library if ready by then, or possibly in the exhibition room in the TIC. Display boards would be needed and there was a budgetary allowance for purchase. The launch event would attempt to engage the community by linking to the success of the first phase and finds and results from the earlier work would be displayed. There was a strong intention to get schools more involved this time and Trish suggested that we should approach Mark Graham at Grampus to see how he managed this aspect, since he had been very successful in getting school visits arranged to many of the Projects he had organized.

Phyl asked if there were any dates for activities already fixed and Martin R replied that he expected to hold workshops in March and April 2019 along with geophysical surveys, then test pits in May, with larger scale excavations later in the year.

Martin R went on to say that 2 professional archaeologists would be employed, one as Project Officer, the other as Project Assistant. These would be based on 20 days attendance per year and would cover Project management, running the workshops, excavation supervision and writing

reports. The jobs would be advertised, initially in local media but depending upon responses, national advertising might be considered. Mileage allowance would be limited to a 30 mile radius, so local applications were more likely. Volunteers would continue with the management functions during interim periods. There was a discussion regarding interview of candidates and who would make up the panel. Both Martin R and Trish said that they would recuse themselves from any interviewing panel.

Barbara wanted to know where test pits would be located and Martin R said that he already had locations planned in Bongate and some of the burgages in Boroughgate would also be targeted. Later work would be designed to follow up on the results. Richard asked if the overall shape of the Project as originally conceived ie. Project Phases aligned with significant periods for the town was now different and Martin R explained that the onus now was on the foundation of the two settlements in the town.

Martin R ended by explaining that he intended to use a spare Cadrus email address for the Project. A Project blog was discussed but Martin J said that he had been disappointed by the response to the blog in the first phase, with only one external post, that one from Trish. However, all thought that it would still be useful as a continuing public record of the Project.

5/11/18 Correspondence

Richard reported that he had been rather out of the picture of late and had noticed only some activity on the administration email address; this appeared to be mostly to do with the new members. Nothing had been received by post as far as he was aware.

6/11/18 AGM Matters

The December newsletter was shortly to be published and should include the AGM agenda. The changes to the constitution agreed by the committee in July which were necessary to assure HLF that Appleby Archaeology was a ‘not for profit’ organisation should be part of the agenda since it would need to be approved by the membership.

Martin J and Chris would stand again as officers but Richard would be standing down as secretary. A new member had indicated that she might be prepared to take over from Richard and he said that he would work with whoever took on the role to ensure a smooth handover. Richard also said that he was still considering whether or not to stand down from the committee, however, in any circumstance he would be willing to continue helping with publicity if nobody else wished to take it on.

Chris suggested that visitor fees should be increased to £4 in 2019. This was because at present visitors could attend most talks for the same or less cost than the yearly subscription. Raising the fee for visitors might encourage people to take out membership. Yearly membership fees would remain at current rates, although increased speaker fees and room hire costs might require this to be revisited during 2019.

Martin J said that the person who had previously audited our accounts had unfortunately died, so a new auditor would need to be found. No-one could suggest any names, so Martin J said that he would request help from the membership at the December talk.

7/11/18 Programme 2019/20

A number of ideas were discussed for 2019 summer events:

Martin J:	Visit to Warcop Range	May
Chris:	Long Meg	June
Martin J/Catherine Hooper?	Eskdalemuir archaeology trail	July

Suggested speakers for the winter season:

- Martin J: Copt How Rock art speaker at LDPA Conf. (Aaron Watson?)
Martin J: Hadrian's Wall Conf. Hexham PhD students?
Martin R: Appleby Moot Hall
Trish: Andrew Fielding (The Mary Rose) now lives in Wigton.
Adrian W: Battlefield Society – Battle of Towton, many links to Appleby via the Cliffords.

It was agreed that in future speakers should be offered an increase in fee to £40.

8/11/18 AOB

Martin R said that the website might benefit from having a page specifically about Dig Appleby.
Martin J said that he was considering a revamp of the website and could look at adding such a page.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Time and date of next meeting: 7:30pm on the 21st February 2019 at the Crown and Cushion, Appleby.